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# Duets

By John Byrum

[Woman]

Whoo!

Oww!

[Off-key]

I'd fall down on my knees

Kiss the ground

that you walk on, baby

If I could just hold you

[Woman]

Whoo!

Again

- [Whistling]

- Whoa, yeah

If I could

just hold you

- Baby, you can hold me!

- If I could just hold you again, baby.

Thank you!

All right, Tulsa,

RonnyJackson!

Let's take a short break, and then

I'll be right back with our next singer.

[Country]

Yeah!

Way to go, Ronny.

Looks like you're on your way to Omaha.

I didn't give it

a second thought.

How about a beer, Earl?

- Your usual?

- Please.

Glass of Chardonnay

for Beth.

[Man Laughs]

What, I say

something funny?

No. I mean, sort of.

You people do this

every night?

- "You people"?

- What do they call it anyway,

"karate-okee"?

No. That's karaoke.

- It's a way of life.

- [Chuckles] Some life.  
- Can I have another seven-and-seven?  
- You bet it is.  
Talent like Ronny's brings in about  
a thousand bucks a month, mister.  
And that's on top of what I make  
at the meat plant.  
- For amateur singing.  
- [Beth] Nothing amateur about it.  
A hundred bucks up tonight,  
and winning automatically qualifes...  
for the grand prize  
over in Omaha.  
And you, mister,  
are looking at the winner.  
Hey, from what  
I've seen tonight,  
I don't see how you can lose.  
[Laughs]  
Maybe you'd like to pass through  
our little contest here, huh?  
I don't have the right costume.  
[Giggles]  
You don't have the voice.  
I beg your pardon.  
I'll have you know I was in the choir  
all three years of high school.  
- So sing.  
- For a hundred bucks?  
You gotta be kidding.  
It's not even worth it.  
Really? Well, why don't I  
sweeten the pot a little bit?  
How much you got  
in your pockets?  
All right.  
What the hell.  
Might be fun.  
Let's see.  
Six hundred  
and ninety bucks.  
Okay.  
[Clears Throat]  
- You're covered.

- So what are you gonna sing?
- Hell, I don't know. Whatcha got?
- Show him the menu.
- "Joe Cocker."
- Joe Cocker.

All right.

You be the bank.

- Oh, come on, guys.
- Earl, just hold the money.
- Got it? All right? Got it?
- All right. All right.

**[Piano:**

[Feedback]

[Chattering]

Seems I got to have

a change of scene

Every night I have

Strangest dream

- He's good!

- Imprisoned by the way

It could have been

Left here on my own

or so it seems

I got to leave before I

start to scream

Oh, someone

locked the door

And took the key

Hey, feelin' alright

Uh-huh

I'm not feelin'

too good myself

- Uh-huh

- Yes, sir

Feelin'alright

Uh-huh

- I'm not feelin'

too good myself, no

- Uh-huh

Boy, you sure took me

For one big ride

Even now I sit

and I wonder why

That when I think of you  
I start myself to cry  
Can't just waste my time  
I must get by  
Gotta stop believin'  
in all your lies  
Oh, there's too much to do  
before I die, hey  
Feelin' alright  
Uh-huh  
I'm not feelin'  
too good myself, no  
- Uh-huh  
- Yes, sir  
Feelin' alright  
Uh ho  
Whoo!  
I'm feelin' alright  
- Uh-huh  
- [Cell Phone Ringing]  
[Ringing Continues]  
Hello.  
Yeah, this is Ricky Dean.  
What?  
- Oh, shit.  
- Honey, you okay?  
When?  
Oh, shit.  
Uh, where?  
Um, I-I don't know.  
No, no, I understand.  
It's just that...  
No, no, no.  
I understand.  
Hang on a second.  
Where am I?  
- Tulsa.  
- They got a direct flight to Vegas?  
Oh, yeah, sure.  
They got a regular shuttle.  
Uh, I-I can't make it  
till tomorrow night.  
All right.  
- What happened?

- Nothing.  
Somebody died.  
Of course, not as cold  
across Texas...  
in comparison  
to parts of Montana.  
It's all relative, though.  
[Continues, Indistinct]  
[Alarm Buzzing]  
[Buzzing Stops]  
Keep that in mind if you're traveling  
anywhere from Aspen...  
over to, uh,  
the Denver-Fort Collins area.  
Winter weather.  
Blowing snow also.  
You could have very light snow  
with an overcast sky,  
the wind starts blowing around  
even when it's light.  
That means very poor visibility.  
Be prepared for that.  
- It's gonna be a cold night.  
- [Clattering]  
[Airplane Approaching]  
I'm sorry, everybody. My plane  
was delayed. We rerouted to Atlanta.  
- I'm very sorry.  
- That's why they invented  
airport hotels.  
- Right, guys?  
- Correct. Right.  
- Coffee?  
- Yes, thank you very much.  
That'd be great.  
I've been on the go  
since Monday.  
I'm telling you, I hardly had time  
to eat the peanuts on the airplane.  
Okay. I know  
I've held you guys up,  
and I've got another flight

**at 11:**

so I'll cut  
right to the chase.  
Our development guys love  
the growth rate in this area.  
And the marketing people are incredibly  
pumped about labor costs, real estate,  
all the potential spin-offs  
into the ancillary service areas.  
- Is that mine? Why, thank you.  
- You betcha.  
So, we would like to bring  
some of our folks down here...  
to look at possible construction sites,  
talk about labor costs,  
the work pool.  
Now we're gonna need your help  
with environmental groups,  
local zoning boards,  
state-level lobby types, et cetera.  
Something wrong?  
No. It's just, uh...  
[Chuckles]  
I-I-I'm not sure what  
you're talking about.  
The park.  
The theme park. Uh, Pilgrim Village,  
U.S.A. [Chuckles]  
This is the Poultry Retailers  
Association meeting.  
[Laughs]  
Oh, gosh. Uh, well, then I must  
be in the wrong room.  
Wow. I'm... very sorry, guys.  
I was just in such a hurry.  
- Hey, shit happens.  
- Yeah, yeah.  
Anyway... Thank you.  
Thanks for the coffee.  
Thanks. Um...  
Does anybody know where  
the Everglades conference suite is?  
Everglades?  
This is Houston.  
Oh, God.

I thought  
I was in Orlando.  
Hi. You called a cab?  
Why do we  
always get you?  
[Laughs]  
Um, I don't know.  
I'll tell you why.  
'Cause nobody else  
will take these jobs.  
Released criminals are not notorious  
for heavy tipping, are they?  
Ten bucks,  
flat rate.  
What do you keep  
lookin' at, kid?  
- Nothing. I wasn't looking at anything.  
- Don't give me, " Nothing."  
I know who you are,  
and you know me.  
- You're Miss Gahagan, aren't you?  
- Right.  
Miss Gahagan, your wonderful, caring,  
nurturing third grade teacher...  
of the Chatsworth Avenue School.  
Look at me, kid.  
You're Billy Hannon, right?  
- Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am, I am.  
- I remember you.  
You were one of  
my biggest underachievers.  
[Snickers]  
How come you're driving a cab?  
Actually, this is my own cab.  
I own it.  
Well, I own half.  
- You own half a cab? Wow.  
- Yes.  
I'll bet Donald Trump is  
lookin' over his shoulder.  
You're just bustin'to know  
what I was cracked for.  
- No, I really... No, I really don't.  
- Shoplifting.



They caught me  
at the Grand Union...  
with a pound of smoked turkey  
and two pairs of pantyhose in my crotch.  
The bird had one of those, uh...  
Goddamn. What do they call it?  
Metal things in it,  
set off the detector.  
Detectors in food stores.  
What a society.  
And I don't even want to think  
of the number of infants...  
who swallowed those things  
and are choking to death on them.  
[Sighs]  
What a world.  
- Eat a bite of turkey,  
you go straight to hell.  
- Right.  
Yeah, I guess it's hard to make  
ends meet in the retirement sector.  
Oh, I do okay. I just steal stuff  
to fuck with people.  
- You ever steal anything, Billy?  
- No, ma'am, I wouldn't do that.  
No, no, of course.  
You're a basic underachiever.  
As always, too scared  
of getting caught and judged.  
You were more, uh,  
the mystical sort.  
You were going to be  
a priest, if I recall.  
Didn't you graduate  
from Loyola?  
No, no. It just, uh...  
It just wasn't my destiny.  
Destiny? [Laughs]  
What a crock of shit!  
[Continues Laughing]  
Miss Gahagan,  
why don't you take this?  
You need this  
more than I do.

And listen to me  
for a second, okay?  
I am not an underachiever.  
I'm not.  
I am just trying to achieve something  
different than most people I know.  
Oh, and what is that?  
- Harmony.  
- [Laughs]  
You're a riot, Billy.  
You're kind of pathetic,  
but you're a riot.  
Let me give you  
some advice, Father.  
The world is a sewer,  
and we're all livin' in hell.  
The sooner you can accept that,  
the sooner you'll be able  
to get on with your life.  
So long.  
[Newscaster On TV] It's not often we  
can show you tape of a police chase...  
that goes through  
two countries.  
Our Cindy LaVargas has it.  
- [TVContinues, Indistinct]  
- Hey!  
- Hey.  
- Billy.  
What are you...  
What are you doing here?  
I took off early. There's a lecture  
on Zen Buddhism tonight at the "Y."  
Man, the saddest thing  
happened to me today.  
I got a call to go  
to the police station...  
Are you watching this? 'Cause I can  
hardly hear with this thing.  
- Yeah, um...  
- [Man Vocalizing, Water Running]  
Billy, um, um...  
[Man Continues Singing]  
Ooh.

God, I'm so... Billy.

I'm so sorry.

I don't...

I don't even know

how it happened.

I just, um... Billy?

I don't... Oh!

- Ralph?

- Christ. Billy...

- Oh, God.

- Billy, please. Don't get crazy.

- My own partner!

- Billy, no, please! Don't go!

[Video Game Beeping]

Hello.

[Chuckles]

Hey, Julie.

Sweetheart?

- Hey, Carson. I'm home, son.

- [Beeping Continues]

- Missed ya.

- [Gunshots]

Thought I was in Florida,

and I was in Texas.

Uh, can you

imagine that?

Now I come home and my own kids

can't even say hello to me.

Jeez, wouldn't it be nice if once when

I come home, someone says hello to me?

Sure.

But just because you come home,

you can't expect everyone...

to just drop what they're doing

and give you their undivided attention.

Well...

[Computer Chiming]

You know what I did for

the last 18 months, Candy?

Hmm?

I racked up over 200,000

frequent flier miles,

jamming a bogus

Pirates of the Caribbean village...

down some zoning board's throat  
in Shell Island, South Carolina.  
Took one of the last remaining pristine  
beaches on the eastern seaboard,  
and I turned it into Toonville...  
with fast food.

[Chuckles]

- Not to mention the turtles.

- Turtles?

- [Computer Chimes]

- Yeah.

Goddamn Shell Island  
sea turtles.

Oldest living amphibians  
in North America.

But now extinct. Pffft!

Thanks to me.

Why? Because we needed their  
breeding grounds for a water slide.

[Computer Chimes]

But didn't you want  
their breeding ground?

Yes.

- No.

- Honey, could you...

I'm... I'm on-line here.

Okay?

[Keyboard Clicking,  
Computer Chiming]

Where you going?

Sorry, Candy, but I'm going out  
for a pack of cigarettes.

But you don't smoke!

[Organ Playing]

What are you doing?

Just trying to fx her hair.

It's sort of stiff.

They've got her  
dipped in hair spray.

Hear that?

Poor Donna.

You knew her well?

Real well. Did you?

Not really.

I guess not.  
I would've heard about you.  
- You live here in Vegas?  
- Mm-hmm.  
Let me guess.  
Keno girl?  
Hey, buddy,  
I worked right alongside Donna  
here at the front line of the Dunes.  
I'm about as close as you get  
to an aristocrat in this town.  
You okay?  
Grieving.  
Yeah, I can smell it  
on your breath.  
You must have  
really loved her.  
[Sighs]  
Yeah.  
I didn't want her  
to get an aneurysm.  
She's the only friend  
I've ever had.  
Me, too, I guess.  
That was  
a long time ago.  
Could you just, like,  
hold onto me for a little while?  
[Sighs]  
Oh, Donna would've been  
so happy...  
- to see you two like this.  
- Hi, Grandma.  
I don't want to interrupt  
if you two are bonding.  
Do you know him?  
Why, of course I know him.  
He's your father.  
[Grandma] Where does your mother  
keep the mayonnaise, dear?  
She didn't believe  
in mayonnaise.  
She didn't believe  
in mayonnaise?

She didn't believe in food  
that required electricity.  
Oh, look, see? There I am in  
third grade. That was my birthday party.  
And you sent me this,  
remember?  
Uh, yeah, uh, I think so.  
I'm still wearing it.  
[Chuckles]  
You know, I don't understand what  
mayonnaise has to do with electricity.  
Well, you've got  
to refrigerate it.  
See, they cut off our power  
so many times over the years...  
that she just went with  
the pure preservatives.  
Hey, look under the microwave,  
in that drawer.  
There's a bunch of packs of shit  
from Burger King and stuff.  
You got it for me  
in Springfield, Missouri,  
and you sent it from  
the airport in St. Louis.  
See? Look.  
It's got a B-E over F-R-I.  
Yeah, I see that.  
Do you still have  
the other half?  
Oh, I don't know.  
You know, maybe somewhere.  
Well, that's okay.  
It always just kind of gave me hope.  
It's kind of what passes  
for a tradition in our family.  
It was the last year  
you sent a present.  
Well, I prefer mayonnaise,  
but at least this is Paul Newman's Own.  
I just love Paul Newman,  
don't you?  
I must've rented Sweet Bird of Youth  
a hundred times.

So, where are you  
living now, Ricky?  
Um, nowhere. I mean, you know,  
I travel pretty much all the time.  
The gypsy life.  
I love it.  
I lived it myself  
when I was a chorus girl.  
But when Mr. Sinatra  
got me my job at the Dunes,  
the roots began to sprout.  
A dynasty was born.  
First Donna. Then Liv.  
Hey, you're not eating.  
Just when I thought my whole life  
was falling apart.  
He's like a sign from heaven,  
isn't he, Grandma?  
Sure is.  
Well, I gotta be in Kansas City  
early tomorrow morning for a show.  
What?  
You're leaving?  
- He's leaving, Grandma?  
- It's okay, honey.  
Maybe Liv could keep you company  
in Kansas City.  
- Really?  
- Um, w-well...  
Oh, I'm so excited  
I gotta pee!  
- Where's she going?  
- Next door.  
There's always something wrong  
with the septic tank.  
Look, what are you  
talking about?  
Listen, you no-good  
son of a bitch.  
You knock up my daughter  
like she's some bitch in heat,  
and then you disappear without  
so much as a backward glance.  
Well, it's time to pay up.

Um, well, I mean, I was gonna  
give you something.  
You know, for the funeral  
and all and, well...  
I'm not talking about money,  
but I'll take it.  
Now, you better listen.  
That girl is not gonna lose a mother  
and a father in the same week.  
Oh, come on!  
You can't be serious!  
She's got a life here.  
I mean, she's got a job.  
- She's an adult, for Christ's sake.  
- Just listen to me.  
I don't give a damn  
whether you stay or go,  
but not until that sweet child manages  
to turn her life back around.  
She's a special girl.  
You may not be much,  
but you and I are all she has,  
and what she needs now is a father.  
- Don't be ridiculous.  
- [Sliding Door Opens]  
- [Clears Throat]  
- Good evening, sir.  
- Good evening. I would  
like a room. Thank you.  
- Of course.  
Could you fill this out,  
and may I have a credit card?  
Ahh. Got something better  
than a credit card.  
I have got over 800,000  
frequent flier miles.  
I've been wanting to take advantage  
of your room credit offer for years.  
I'm sorry, sir, but we don't have  
any mileage credit rooms  
available this evening.  
Oh, you don't have  
any vacancies?  
Yes, we do, but not for



the mileage credit program.  
Uh, if you'd like to reserve  
a room now for credit,  
the earliest  
I have available is in...  
six weeks.  
I would like a room  
tonight.  
We take MasterCard,  
Visa or AMEX.

[Rock]

[Woman] You're a real tough cookie  
with a long history  
Of breaking little hearts  
like the one in me  
Before I put another notch  
in my lipstick case  
You better make sure  
you put me in my place  
Hit me with your best shot  
Come on  
Hit me with your best shot  
Hit me with your best shot  
Fire away  
Hit me with your best shot  
Why don't you hit me  
with your best shot  
Hit me with your best shot  
Fire away  
Fire away

- Ba ba ba baow

- [Cheering, Whistling]

Hey, excuse me.

You are a great singer.

Aw! Karaoke's my life.

Oh.

What is karaoke?

What?

Where you been, mister?

Uh, airport hotel rooms.

- Oh.

- Suburbia.

- Mental jail.

- Ah! Well, they don't

got it in jail yet,  
but they got it in every bar  
I ever been in.  
And it's what,  
exactly?  
Oh, it's a rush  
like you wouldn't believe.  
It's like you get to be a star  
for three minutes!  
Ow! [Laughs]  
Can you sing?  
I mean, up there in front of people?  
Oh, well, I used to, actually.  
A little bit.  
- Yeah? Well, what happened?  
- A long time ago.  
I don't know.  
I guess I went into sales.  
Oh. Well, are you in sales  
at the moment?  
[Laughs]  
Oh, no.  
Actually, I'm out getting  
a pack of cigarettes.  
Yeah. I don't know  
where I am, actually.  
- Uh, I'm somewhere  
in Arizona or something.  
- Arizona?  
- [Laughing]  
- Right?  
- Are you crazy?  
You're in New Mexico.  
- Oh.  
Close enough.  
They're right next to each other.  
[Both Laughing]  
Well, why don't you  
go ahead and go sing?  
- No. No!  
- Yeah.  
- Oh, come on! It won't kill you!  
- No way. No.  
- I'd be way too nervous.

- Ah! Okay.  
Here. Take one of these.  
Just one. Go ahead.  
Go on. Beta blockers.  
They chase all your fears away.  
Come on.  
Drink up. Taffy!

- Good boy.  
- Sheila!  
- What can I do for you?  
- Can you do me a little favor?  
- My friend here is desperate to sing.  
- Oh, no.  
- Are you sure?  
- No, no, thank you. No, I couldn't.  
- Oh, come on!  
- I couldn't. No.

They're not workin' yet.

- Uhhh!  
- Mm-hmm.  
- Go! You can do it!  
- Okay! What the hell!

[Laughs]

All right! What's your name?

- Todd. Yeah.  
- Don't be afraid. Come on up.

Whoa, whoa.  
What am I supposed to sing?  
I'm gonna put a song on.  
Watch the monitor and sing.  
Everyone, a warm welcome  
for Todd.  
He's a little nervous.

[Applause]

[Man]

Come on, brother! Sing your song!

- Hello, it's me  
- [Groaning, Laughing]  
- Hello, it's me  
- [Music Stops]

I'm sorry, honey.  
You started a little too soon.  
- You wait till the colors change.  
We'll try it again.

- Okay.

Hello, it's me

I've thought about us

for a long, long time

Maybe I think too much

but something's wrong

- There's something here

that doesn't last too long

- [Girls Giggling]

Maybe I shouldn't think

of you as mine

- [Woman] Yeah!

- [Man Hoots]

[Cheering]

Seein' you

Or seeing anything

as much as I do you

I take for granted

that you're always there

I take for granted

that you just don't care

- Sometimes I can't help

seein' all the way through

- [Cheering]

- Yeah!

- [Cheering Continues]

Whoo! Yeah!

It's important to me

That you know

you are free

- 'Cause I never wanna

- Hey, Taffy.

- Make you change for me

- He's so cute, isn't he?

Yeah, he is.

Think of me

You

You know that I'd

be with you if I could

I'll come around to see you

once in a while

Or if I ever need

a reason to smile

And spend the night

if you think I should  
- Hey, lady, can you help me out?  
- Hey. Oh, no.  
I spent my last money  
on that bus.  
Maybe you can help me out.  
They got a karaoke bar around here?  
Oh, I wouldn't know.  
I guess you wouldn't,  
would you?  
Anyway...  
- Hey!  
- God bless you, sir. Have a nice day.  
Hey, lady,  
come back!  
- [Rock]  
- Hey, hey, ah  
What I like about you  
What... What I like  
about you  
That's what I like  
That's what I like  
- [Coughing]  
- [Continues]  
Here you go.  
Billy!  
Been to every bar in town.  
Me too.  
I'm really sorry.  
I didn't mean to hurt you.  
So what do you want  
from me?  
Look, you're the greatest guy  
I have ever met.  
You're the frst man  
that I had sex with.  
You know, after ten years  
of being with women.  
And the sex was great.  
You were so tender,  
and you were so sweet.  
It was almost like...  
being with a girl.  
Seriously.

Hey, what's the purse  
in this shithole?

- Where's the K.J.?
- The K.J.?
- We're talking here.
- Whatever.

Hey. You got money up on the karaoke,  
or is this some kind of shadow hang?  
Not today.

Strictly barbers and phantoms.

- Aw, shit!
- No! You just don't have  
enough faith in yourself.  
Don't start the cheerleader act,  
okay? I'm sick of it!  
You're like some totally pure,  
totally innocent person.

Most of us  
can't be like you.  
Or I know I can't.

[Man Singing,  
Indistinct]  
To you and Ralph.  
You're not even  
listening to me.  
I told you!

- He's repulsive.
- Then why?
- I don't know.
- I guess he...

[Sighs]  
I guess 'cause  
he treats me like shit.

- Ha!
- That's what I like about you  
Sorry.

Hey  
Listen, there's one other thing  
I gotta...  
Ralph's worried  
about the vehicle.  
His half-a-vehicle. Ralph is worried  
about his half-a-vehicle.  
Said he'll call the cops if you don't

bring that cab in. He means it too.

He said it like 40 times.

At least.

Well, he's gonna have to do

what he's gonna have to do.

Okay, Billy.

You do what you gotta do,

you know?

- I-I'm really sorry about...

everything, really.

- Hey, hey, hey

[Applause, Whistling]

I hope you find that angel

you're looking for someday.

[Clears Throat]

So, you own a cab?

- I own half a cab.

- How does someone own half a cab?

Well, that's about as far as

your basic underachiever gets in life.

- Didn't you know that?

- No. I'm an achiever, myself.

Good for you.

So, are you free?

- Free for what?

- I need a ride.

- Where you goin'?

- California.

- [Laughs]

- I don't have any money,

but I'd be willing

to be nice to you.

Real nice. All the way

to the Sunshine State.

- Florida is the Sunshine State.

- Whatever.

I need to get to California,

and I'm willing to be nice.

What are you

normally?

Okay, fine!

That's what I get for talking

to your basic underachiever.

Which way is

the interstate, exactly?

About two miles west.

- What are you gonna do?

- Hitch.

Hey, um,

which way's west,

exactly?

Is that it?

A few miles up the road

is the Side Track.

It's a truck stop

It's where you get off.

Well, I appreciate

the ride this far.

It might take you some time

to get another ride,

this being Utah

and you being colored and all.

Them shoes you're wearing

don't help any.

Uh, I'm not sure I quite

understand what you mean.

Them's prison shoes.

Standard issue when they drum you out.

Worn a pair or two myself.

Yes, I'm sure you have.

- What were you in for?

- An error in judgment.

[Laughing]

Hey, babe, we was all in for an

error in judgment. [Laughs]

Yeah, I suppose we were.

Some say the world

will end in fire.

Some say in ice.

What do you think?

Heh. Hard to say,

Cold War bein' over and all.

Your money or your life.

Get the fuck out.

I apologize. I do.

It's just that

the only skill I have is singing.

Learn a trade.



I have.

This is it.

[Rock]

I'm on a Mexican radio

I'm on a Mexican

Whoa, radio

[Humming]

- [Tires Screeching]

- [Continues]

[Tires Screeching]

Hello!

Hop in.

- [Continues]

- Come on, come on, come on. Hop in.

- Where you going?

- I don't know.

What the fuck

do you care?

- Hop in.

- Your eyes are weird.

- You on something?

- 'Scuse me?

- You look funky.

- Are you a cop?

- No.

- Okay, then shit or get off the pot.

Where you going?

Chicago.

Where you going?

Nowhere. I'm actually out

buying a pack of cigarettes.

[Laughing]

What's in Chicago?

My mother's in Chicago.

Oh. Okay.

Well, they probably got

cigarettes there. Hop in.

Reach in that cooler back there.

Pop us a couple of cervezas, por favor.

I tried those Styrofoam jobbies

the last three times.

You think it's cost-efficient?

It is not.

[Clicks Tongue]

Ah. There you go.

Gracias.

- You're not having one?

- No, thank you. It's against the law.

- You should loosen up, my friend.

- You think so?

Mmm. Hell yes.

You know, in fact,

this whole country should loosen up.

It's not even a country

anymore anyway.

It's just

a big strip mall.

McDonalds, Pizza Huts,

Wendys.

Big strip mall

from coast to coast.

- [Sniffs]

- You're on cocaine?

I have a cold.

- You're flyin'on something.

- I'm flying on freedom.

[Squeals]

I scored some bennies off some shadow in this K-bar last night.

- I think it was Tucumcari.

- Shadow?

Yeah. It's K-talk.

It's karaoke.

Uh, I may need you

to drive later on.

I don't know how.

- You don't know how to drive?

- No, I don't know how to drive.

How bizarre!

Is this a result of heredity?

Environment.

I've lived my life in tiny rooms.

So have I, man.

All owned by

major chains.

- Chains?

- Ramada, Sheraton, Motel 6. Chains.

Huh. I'm no stranger

to chains myself.

Well, now, aren't we lucky  
that we met?

[Laughing]

[Knock On Door]

- Hi.

- What are you doing here?

I decided to come.

I got the room next door.

Just like that?

How'd you find me?

Information.

I only had to call three hotels  
before I found you.

Wow! Do you always  
get a king-size bed?

- Huh? Uh, yeah.

- I love a king-size bed.

The only time I ever get to  
sleep in one is if I'm with one  
of the headliners from the show.

- Look, um, Liv...

- Tom Jones. He was the best.

He let me stay in his room for  
the whole month he was there last year.  
He was really nice to me.

So, you, uh,  
slept with Tom Jones.

- It wasn't like that. We didn't do that.

- Oh, I see.

You spent a month  
sleeping with Tom Jones...  
in his Vegas hotel room,  
and you never had sex?

No.

Well, what exactly  
did you do for Tom?

I kept him from being lonely,  
like I'm gonna do for you.

We're family, Daddy. I've waited  
my whole life to spend time with you.

I'm not cut out for this.

Just like that?

Look, can we just

deal with this later?  
I gotta go  
to work.  
- Singing?  
- Yeah. I'm a singer.  
That's what I do for a living.  
This is a karaoke bar.  
Yeah, with a ton  
of prize money.  
Can I watch you work?  
No.  
Why?  
Because  
you wouldn't understand.  
How would you  
know that?  
I just know it.  
- You think I'm stupid?  
- No.  
Look, I do a solo,  
that's all.  
- [Coughs]  
- Well, well.  
Sleeping Beauty stirs.  
Where am I?  
Missouri. Six more states  
and we're home free.  
There's a layer of puke  
on the side of the car...  
that looks and smells  
like rancid guacamole.  
I told you to take some aspirin  
last night, but you were,  
like, totally trashed.  
I've gotta get home.  
You don't have a home, junior.  
I bet you got a headache.  
Sort of, yeah.  
You alcoholics  
are all the same.  
I'm not an alcoholic.  
I'm not.  
Whatever you say.  
I'm not the judge and jury.

I got my own problems.  
Ooh. Do I detect a note  
of interest this morning?  
I told you I'd be nice to you  
if you took me to California.  
I tried to be nice, but you were  
like permanently at half-mast,  
- Like a nation in mourning.  
- Listen,  
I can drop you somewhere and,  
you know...  
I can drop you at the bus station  
or the interstate.  
- Wherever you wanna go,  
I can drop you.  
- I wanna go to California.  
No, um,  
I mean here, now.  
I mean in  
the immediate vicinity.  
We gotta paint the cab.  
And what would lead you to think  
I would paint my cab?  
We gotta paint the cab because the dildo  
who's drilling your ex-girlfriend...  
is gonna be  
coming after his half.  
He can have it  
as far as I'm concerned,  
but not until  
we get to California.  
If you think I'm gonna drive you  
to California, you're delusional.  
Well, it's better than crawling back  
on your hands and knees...  
to those two losers,  
isn't it?  
[Sighs]  
I like the Cotton Candy Fuchsia,  
don't you, Billy?  
- Very daring.  
- I must say, you are a connoisseur.  
That is our top of the line  
signature hue.

Now, is this part of  
the \$99 special?

Alas, quality

does not come cheap.

That is a creme de la creme  
paint job...

for a creme de la creme  
price.

The Cotton Candy series  
goes for 173.99, tax included.

Okay. We'll take it,  
right, Billy?

Oh, definitely.

Excellent choice.

How'd you like to pay for that?

Cash, check,  
credit card?

Uh, well, we're a little short  
on money right now, sir,  
but I'll consider it an honor  
and a privilege to suck your dick.

[Machinery Whirring]

[Rock]

- Pushing it kinda hard, ain't you?

- Then you drive.

- I told you. I don't know how.

- I'll teach ya.

- No, man!

- Come on. It's easy.

I'm sure.

I just don't wanna do it.

A guy your age doesn't know how  
to drive, it's ridiculous. Ah...

[Tires Screeching]

Islands in the stream

That is what we are

No one in between

- How can we be wrong

- Oh, shit.

- What?

- It's duets night.

And we rely on each other

- Uh-huh

- Can you carry a tune at all?

- Oh, I do okay.  
- Yeah? Back me up?  
I-I don't know.  
It's... It's...  
- Oh, hello there.  
- Hi.  
- Uh, what's the money tonight?  
- It's \$50.  
- Each?  
- Where do you think you are,  
pal, Austin?  
- Huh.  
- No, the real big money's  
up in Omaha this Saturday.  
- Oh? How much?  
- Five grand.  
If you win here,  
you qualify.  
Well, show me the menu.  
Thank you.  
Mmm.  
Can you handle this?  
- "Try A Little Tenderness," please.  
- Uh-huh.  
Thank you very much.  
Might think about slowin' down  
on those, pal.  
What are you, my mother?  
Come on.  
- What's the, um...  
- This is the screen  
I was telling you about.  
The words  
just come up there,  
and as they change color,  
you just sing along with it.  
- As they change color, you just sing.  
- Don't worry about it.  
Okay, uh, I'm gonna have  
to take a rain check, pal.  
Why? Don't worry about it.  
Just lip-synch or something.  
- I'll carry the whole thing.  
- No, no.

- I'll carry the whole thing.  
- Really, really, I can't.  
Oh, look, it's duets night.  
Live in the moment.  
I will drive you anywhere  
in the goddamn country...  
if you will  
do this for me.  
I swear to God.  
- Come on. How you gonna beat that deal?  
- [Music Starts]  
Come on.  
Just stand there.  
That's all I need.  
Please.  
Oh, she may be weary  
And young girls  
they do get wearied  
Wearin'that same old  
shaggy dress  
Yeah, yeah, yeah  
But when  
she gets weary  
She gets weary  
Try a little tenderness  
- Tenderness  
- Yeah, yeah  
- Yeah, yeah  
- Hey now  
Come over here.  
Come here. Come on.  
I know she's waiting  
Just anticipating  
The things  
- That she'll never  
- Never  
- Never, never possess  
- Never, never possess, no  
While she's there waiting  
Ooh, she's waiting  
Just tell me what to do,  
Reginald, please.  
Try a little tenderness  
That's all



you gotta do  
[Audience Applauds]  
It's not  
Just sentimental  
No, no, no  
No, no, no, no  
She has her grief and cares  
Yeah  
- But the soft words  
- You seen these guys before?  
- They are spoke so gentle  
- All right.  
Oh, makes it easier  
Easier  
Easier to bear  
- Ha!  
- Oh, now you won't regret it, no, no  
Young girls  
they don't forget it  
Love is their only happiness  
- Yeah  
- Yeah, yeah  
- [Woman] Yeah!  
But it's all so easy  
All so easy  
All you got to do  
is try a little  
- Tenderness  
- Try a little tenderness  
Yeah  
Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah  
- You got to squeeze her  
Don't tease her  
- [Audience Clapping In Rhythm]  
Never leave her  
You got to, got to, got to  
got to, got to, got to  
Try a little tenderness  
- Hey, hey, yeah, yeah  
- Hey, hey, yeah, yeah  
- Hey, hey, all you got to do now  
- Yeah  
- Ohhhh, you got to  
- You got to

Squeeze her  
Don't tease her  
- Never leave her  
- Never leave her  
Na, na-na, wa, na-na, ow  
Try a little tenderness  
- Yeah, ohhhh  
- Ooh, now, oh  
Don't lose her now  
You got to squeeze her  
Don't tease her  
Never leave her  
[Scatting]  
Try a little tenderness  
- Ow! Whoo!  
- Whoo!  
[Cheering, Applause]  
That was great!  
Oh. Yeah.  
You boys were great.  
Me and Scott here were gonna  
give it a shot tonight,  
but after hearing you,  
we ain't even gonna try.  
Hey, thank you.  
Superb.  
[Car Horn Blaring]  
- Wahhh...  
- That's excellent, excellent, excellent.  
Mmm. Mm!  
- Try passing somebody.  
- Are you crazy?  
No, no, no.  
Now, on the left, of course.  
On the left, left, left, left.  
Always on the left.  
Always pass on the left,  
Reginald,  
unless, of course, the right  
is the only thing open.  
Cardinal rule  
of American business.  
- [Tires Screeching]  
- [Todd] Oh, very good!

Very smoothly done!

- Hey, hey, hey!

- [Laughing]

You've done this before,  
huh, hotshot?

This is good. You don't want  
to pass this up. Pass him.

- No. Todd...

- Pass it!

- Oh, f... Pass it, loser!

- Hey!

- Hey, hey.

- How can a guy who sings  
like you be such a loser?

Pass it!

- That's it! Yeah!

- Whoo!

Keep going.

Yes! Oh!

You're doin' beautiful!

[Todd Muttering]

- [Horn Blaring]

- Whoo!

[Reginald Screaming]

[Both Laughing]

Whoo!

[Coughing]

Whoo!

[Reginald Laughing]

[Panting]

Yours?

Oh, Reginald.

[Chuckles]

You have little hidden corners.

- Never mind that.

- Oh, what do you do with this thing?

- You don't wanna know.

- Oh, uh, you're wrong about that.

Show me.

No.

No more driving lessons  
if you don't.

Fine. " No more  
driving lessons."

Do you want to depend on people  
for rides for the rest of your life?

- Come on. Show me

what you do with the gun.

- You don't want to know!

Get out!

Fine.

Hey... No...

Fu... Fuck.

No, it's not fine.

It's pathetic.

You sing like an angel, and you don't  
even know how to drive a car?

That is what is wrong  
with the entire culture, Reggie.

It's why I...

me personally...

why I destroyed the breeding ground  
for an entire race of turtles,  
all in the name  
of a water slide, Reggie!

[Chuckles]

You're crazy.

I think you  
need some sleep.

- Get some sleep for me.

- Sure.

- You're right.

- Really?

- Really?

- Sure.

Let's go.

[Coughing]

She'll expose you  
when she snags you  
Off your feet with the crumbs  
she throws you

- She's ferocious

- [Patrons Whistling]

And she knows just what  
it takes to make a pro blush

All the boys  
think she's a spy  
She's got

Bette Davis eyes  
And she'll tease you  
She'll unease you  
All the better  
just to please you  
She's precocious  
And she knows just what  
it takes to make a pro blush  
All the boys  
think she's a spy  
She's got Bette Davis eyes  
And she'll  
tease you  
She'll unease you  
Just to please you  
She's got Bette Davis eyes  
She'll expose you  
When she snows you  
And she knows you  
She's got Bette Davis eyes  
She's got Bette Davis eyes  
She's got Bette Davis eyes  
[Patrons Cheering,  
Whistling, Applauding]  
- Yeah!  
- Amazing.  
- [Liv] I was so scared.  
- [Man] Oh, no, baby. You were great.  
You know, you could go real far  
with the right coaching.  
Oh, my God, what are  
you going as?  
What exactly  
are you doing here?  
- I wanted to see you sing.  
- Is that right?  
You gonna enter this  
little contest of ours?  
I don't know. What do they  
call it, anyway? " Karate-okee"?  
Looks a little stupid.  
Could I win a free drink or something?  
- [Man Chuckles]  
- [Ricky] And who are you?

Oh, well, this is Buddy.  
Buddy is the champion around here.  
He wins the prize money  
every time, don't you, Buddy?  
- Well, that's what they say.  
- [Chuckles]  
Oh, and this here is Clark.  
This is Buddy's manager.  
Manager? You must be  
some singer, Buddy.  
That's right.  
Buddy here's the best on the circuit.  
- Looks like my boy's gonna  
bring home the bacon again.  
- Your boy?  
Oh, I get it. You two guys  
are lovebirds. Is that the deal?  
Who are you, mister?  
I'm a guy who's willing to  
bet you a thousand bucks...  
on top of the purse...  
that I can blow  
your ass offstage.  
What do you say?  
All right.  
No, Buddy.  
Something don't smell right here.  
Come on, Buddy.  
It'll be fun.  
Marlene, you got yourself  
another entry.  
Goddamn it, Buddy.  
Let's just get the bartender  
to hold this bet.  
I'll hold it.  
You really  
his manager?  
Number fve.  
Crank it up.  
[Background Singers On Tape]  
Shooby-doo bop, bop, pow, ah  
My heart is cryin', cryin'  
Lonely teardrops  
My pillow's never dry of

- Lonely teardrops  
- [Patrons Cheering]  
Come home  
Come home  
Watch my back.  
Just say you will  
Say you will  
- Say ...  
- You're some kind of goddamn  
hustler, ain't you, boy?  
- You know what we do  
to hustlers around here?  
- Yeah. You lose.  
[Screaming]  
- [Groaning]  
- [Screaming Continues]  
[Tires Screeching]  
- [Man] Can I help you?  
- Yeah, we'd like a couple rooms.  
Okay,  
they're \$79 apiece.  
No problem.  
I've got this.  
- This would be what?  
- This would be  
800,000 frequent flier miles.  
And so?  
So you've got  
a room credit offer.  
Um, no, we don't.  
Oh, yes, you do, because I've read about  
it in a thousand in-flight magazines.  
Did you read  
about it yesterday?  
No, I didn't fly yesterday.  
I drove with my friend here.  
Well, that's too bad. You might have  
read that yesterday the offer ended.  
[Sighs]  
This offer never really  
existed anywhere, right?  
- Listen, if you have cash...  
- Oh, yes, I've got cash.  
- I have got more credit cards...

- Hey...  
than a New York  
debutante.  
I've got stocks, bonds,  
and a dozen lines of credit.  
But I have been buying  
this mileage dream...  
with my poor addled brain  
for years now,  
and it turns out to be  
totally meaningless, doesn't it?  
Gimme that, man!  
Gimme that...  
This whole offer is just like every  
other pipe dream in the U.S.A., right?  
- [Reggie]  
Come on, man. Put down the gun!  
- Just another cynical...  
stock-job sucker punch on us poor,  
dumb commercial believers.  
It's a '90s version  
of religious persecution, you know?  
You people, you are terrifying!  
Okay, okay.  
I can give you two rooms.  
I'll even throw in an upgrade.  
Really. You hear that?  
- Give it.  
- No, just a second.  
- [Laughing]  
- Be cool, man.  
Absolutely. Sure.  
Whatever you say.  
Bye now. Bye.  
Really?  
Thank you.  
Okay, we're in  
the executive suite.  
Let me guess.  
You wanna sleep in a bed  
tonight or not?  
- What?  
- I don't understand you.  
[Snickers]



You don't have to understand me.  
What I do is just a hustle.  
No, it's not about  
a damn hustle.  
It's about  
humiliating yourself.  
It's about denigrating  
yourself because you can't deal  
with the possibility of failure.  
You're the loser here.  
You're the underachiever.  
What's it like going around  
being everybody's conscience?  
- Doesn't it get lonely?  
- Don't you, trying to be  
everybody's wet dream?  
Listen, you loser. You got nowhere  
to go and nothing to go back to.  
You're just another poor lost soul  
leading a life of quiet desperation.  
I'm gonna be the only major thing that  
has ever happened to you in your life,  
and you're gonna be jerkin' off  
to my memory on your deathbed.  
- If I was you, I'd just sit back  
and enjoy the ride.  
- How'd you get like this?  
Hmm.  
- Ah...  
- Hey, this ain't Kmart, pal.  
Find what you need  
and get out.  
- Did you hear me?  
- Uh-huh.  
I've lived my life in sales.  
Being hostile to a consumer  
is very counterproductive.  
That's it.  
Get the fuck out.  
[Gunshot]  
Jesus Christ.  
[Liquid Pouring On Floor]  
Gimme the gun.  
- Come on, man.

- Why?  
- Gimme the gun.  
- No.  
- Fucker.  
Shut up!  
[Chuckling]  
- Oh! Gimme that!  
- Huh?  
[Todd]  
Oh! [Giggling]  
- [Reggie] Come on! Go!  
- [Todd Laughing]  
[Reggie]  
Get down!  
[Gunshots]  
Reginald,  
are you angry with me?  
You're strung out, man.  
You need some sleep.  
No, no, no.  
You are so wrong, my brother.  
I have never been more awake  
in my entire life.  
You're just mad because  
I'm on to your little secret.  
- And that would be what?  
- Oh, the power of life and death.  
Bam, bam, bam!  
John Wayne I am!  
[Chuckling]  
It's a viable alternative  
to a life in sales.  
[Scoffs]  
Hmm.  
What?  
Tsk.  
I know that look.  
That is the Candy Woods  
look of disdain, isn't it?  
I wouldn't know.  
Never met her.  
Hey...  
Uh... Here.  
Candy Woods.

She specializes  
in plastic runners.

- [Laughing]

- These your kids?

Mm-hmm.

Julie and Carson.

Kind of pretty.

You think so?

- I gotta use the bathroom.

- Fine.

Whoa, whoa, whoa.

Stay in the car.

Fine.

You know what the hangover  
is for killing?

[Sighs]

No. I give up.

Doom.

[Phone Ringing]

- Hello?

- [Reggie] Mrs. Todd Woods?

- Yes.

- How soon can you get to  
Omaha, Nebraska, Mrs. Woods?

I'll close my eyes

Then I won't see

The love you don't feel

When you're holding me

Morning will come

And I'll do what's right

Just give me till then

To give up

this fight

And I will

give up this fight

'Cause I can't

make you love me

If you don't

You can't make

your heart feel

Somethin'

it won't

Here in the dark

In these final hours

I will lay down my heart  
And I feel  
the power  
But you won't  
No, you won't  
'Cause I can't  
make you love me  
If you don't  
[Cheering]  
I think it's clear.  
We have a winner.  
The \$500 grand prize winner  
this evening, ladies and gentlemen,  
is Suzi Loomis.  
As if... As if  
I have to tell you,  
Suzi, you now qualify  
to sing in Omaha...  
on Saturday night  
for \$5,000.  
Here you go, darlin'.  
Congratulations.  
Let's hear it. Suzi Loomis,  
ladies and gentlemen.  
[Cheering, Applause]  
- You were really great.  
- Not too shabby, huh?  
Way to go, baby. Let's not forget  
our agreement, huh?  
- I mean, a deal's a deal. Come on!  
- No, no, no, no, no.  
I think you should just leave it alone,  
all right?  
- [Beeping]  
- That's Mr. And Mrs. Dean?  
Mr. And Miss.  
We're here  
for the contest.  
That reservation was  
for one room or two?  
- Two rooms.  
- Adjoining, if possible.  
Oh, I'm sure that  
can be arranged.

Great.

I'll register you in. Don't worry.

I won't cramp your style.

What's this?

[Sighing]

It's the end of the road.

They got karaoke?

Oh, yeah.

Oh, this hotel has

a mileage upgrade offer.

- Really?

- Yeah.

- You do it.

- Okay.

Will you look at this place?

We could be anywhere.

- Yeah, I guess we could. Hi.

- Hello.

Oh, I'm sorry. We're not  
accepting this right now.

But we do accept

all major credit cards.

- Hey.

- Huh?

- Get a room like everybody else.

- What do you think?

- You're funny.

- I am? Why?

- Because I make you nervous.

- No, you don't.

You act

like I do.

I wanted to be a ballerina,

did you know that?

[Sighs] But Donna had her heart set  
on us working side by side.

She never really said so,

but I could tell.

You always refer to your mom

by her first name?

Only since we started

working at the Dunes,

because she said that me calling

her "mom" made her feel old.

She used to talk  
about you a lot, you know.  
Did you  
ever miss her?  
I don't know.  
I suppose so.  
Well, she could not  
sing at all. [Chuckles]  
But I used to love it  
when she would,  
and she would always sing  
the same song over and over...  
like a broken record.  
And, uh,  
it went, like...  
You're gonna  
fly away  
Glad you're  
goin' my way  
I love it when  
we're cruisin' together  
Smokey Robinson.  
- You know it.  
- Sure.  
It was one  
of our favorites.  
Music is  
played for love  
Cruisin' is  
made for love  
Hey, why'd you come  
to Donna's funeral?  
Look, um, you know,  
I don't wanna get into it.  
I mean, I just feel like  
we're circling the inevitable.  
What does that mean?  
Well, you have this childlike dream  
that we're always gonna be together.  
It's an unrealistic  
fantasy.  
I mean, it's just not  
who I am. I'm sorry.  
You know, you are so busy

pushing people away and trying  
to be something that you're not,  
that when something real finally comes  
into your life, you can't deal with it.  
Well, I am here. I am alive.

I am your daughter.

Whether you want to take responsibility  
for it or not, it's a fact.

I mean, what kind of person doesn't  
acknowledge his own child?

I'm not asking you  
for the moon.

I am asking you  
for a hand,

to reach out,  
and you can't even do that.

And you feel sorry for me?

I feel sorry for you.

- [Water Running]

- [Knocking]

[Faucet Squeaks,  
Water Stops]

[Knocking]

Todd?

Jesus.

What are you doing?

- Talk to your wife, man, not to me.

- No.

I wanna talk to you. What the hell  
do you think you're doing?

Trying to save  
your life.

I love you, man.

Are you gay, Todd?

- Is that what's happening?

- No, Mrs. Woods, we're not gay.

- [Chuckles]

- Your husband has been kind to me.

He's been a friend.

- But now he's headed down this path.

- Oh, that's right.

That's right. A path.

For once in my life, it's a real path.

It's not some cheap, plastic

corporate illusion of a path.  
It's a real path to the real meaning  
of the real truth.  
You know, I have actually  
computed in my head...  
the odds of getting  
the same rental car twice...  
in a lifetime  
of business travel,  
and do you know what they are?  
Do you know  
how many actual...  
sense memories I have of being  
in the same off-white...  
Chevy Caprice  
from the Alamo people...  
in the Dallas-Fort Worth area  
alone?  
No.  
It would blow your mind.  
[Sniffling]  
It's nothing either one of you people  
can obviously ever comprehend.  
I don't know  
what's going on, Todd,  
but I'm frightened.  
Don't be frightened,  
Mrs. Woods.  
Nothing's happened that can  
come back to haunt you,  
- if he stops now.  
- Stops what?  
Huh? Who are you?  
I'm a friend.  
Oh.  
Your husband has made  
an error in judgment.  
I would be pleased  
to take all the blame.  
For what?  
Todd, what is going on?  
I'm getting really confused here,  
and I don't get it.  
- Because I ask you...



- I say we take the country back  
from the McDonalds...  
and the Pizza Huts  
and the Wendys.  
I say we tear down all those strip malls  
and we get back in touch...  
with the inner core.  
Oh, my God, Todd!  
Would you be cool?  
- Wha...  
- Be cool.  
[Sniffling]  
I gotta go.  
Why?  
You just got here.  
Did I say something  
that offended you?  
You're just  
plain insane.  
I'm just a little tired  
of the American Dream.  
Hello, everybody. Are you  
ready to rock the house?  
[People Cheering, Shouting,  
Whistling, Applauding]  
Okay, welcome to  
Omaha, Nebraska.  
You've all qualifed to sing  
here tonight from just about  
every state in the Union,  
and the winner  
gets to take home \$5,000.  
- [Cheering, Applause]  
- Are you excited? I am... I am excited.  
It should be an amazing night.  
So let the games begin.  
- [Loud Cheering, Whistling]  
- Whoo!  
[Scatting]  
For the frst time  
in history  
It's gonna start  
rainin' men  
- Start rainin'men

- It's rainin' men  
At break of day  
when that man drove away  
I was waiting  
I crossed the street  
to her house  
And she opened  
the door  
She stood there laughing

- Hi. You a contestant?  
- Yeah, Ricky Dean.  
- My daughter set me up earlier.  
- Yep. I got you down.  
You go on in about  
20 minutes, okay?  
- Will you be using your own CD?  
- Not tonight.  
- Can I see your menu?  
- Sure.  
- My Delilah  
- Here you go.  
- Thanks.  
- Oh, jeez. I'm sorry. Sorry about that.  
- Oh!  
It's okay.  
["Strangers In The Night"  
Playing]  
Up to the moment  
when we said our first hello  
Little did we know  
Love was just  
a glance away  
A warm embracing  
dance away  
And ever since  
that night

- We've been together  
- Hey.  
- Lovers at first sight  
- Hi.  
- Hi.  
- In love forever  
- Uh, we bumped into  
each other in the lobby.

- I know.  
- It turned out so right  
For strangers  
in the night  
Doo-bee doo-bee doo  
Doo doo doo dee doo  
Da dee da dee da  
da dee da da dee da  
- An angel just passed.  
- What's that?  
My mom used to say that when  
nobody talked for a minute...  
that an angel just passed.  
Oh.  
- Are you gonna sing?  
- Me? No. No, no, no.  
I don't know how  
to sing. I mean...  
Everybody knows how to sing,  
it's just I'm not good at it.  
Oh, come on.  
I bet you're just being modest.  
[Hostess]  
Let's bring out our next singer.  
All right. Are you guys  
ready for the song stylings...  
of Miss Suzi Loomis?  
[Cheering, Whooping,  
Whistling]  
Suzi Loomis? No?  
Suzi Loomis.  
[Hostess]  
Going once. Suzi Loomis going twice.  
- Nope?  
- Would you excuse me?  
- We'll give you a chance  
to come up here.  
- Yeah.  
- In the meantime,  
let's just move down the list.  
- Okay.  
You kids ready?  
Yeah? Okay.  
Let's bring out

Tonia and Hobie Kasper.

Bom bom bom bom

bom bom bom bom bom

Bom bom bom bom bom bom

Ba ding-a-ding ding

- Blue moon

- Blue, blue, blue, blue moon

[Coughing]

[Coughing]

[Exhaling]

- [Sniffling]

- They called your name.

Are you all right?

[Chuckles]

Can't you tell?

[Gaspings]

You're sick?

[Sniffling]

Scared shitless.

Ugh.

You were right, you know?

I'm the loser.

[Sniffling]

I was just too dumb to notice.

You happy?

Now, go away and let me

die in peace, please.

You know, I was

gonna be a priest.

[Laughing]

Really, I was. Black robe  
and the collar, the whole deal.

I was, uh... I was about  
to graduate the seminary.

Yeah... I don't know  
what happened. I don't.

Ever since I was a kid,  
I believed that there was some  
greater purpose for my life.

You know? I-I thought it was  
my calling to help people.

- It's such a crock. It's a crock.

- No.

My third-grade teacher said the world's

a sewer and we're all living in hell.  
Wow. Tough class.  
Listen.  
I-I'm always gonna believe  
the world's beautiful...  
and people are  
basically decent.  
And if that's gonna keep me  
from fitting in,  
then I'd rather go through this whole  
life like a complete and utter retard,  
rather than have to accept  
somebody else's miserable reality.  
Do you know  
what I mean?  
Do you wanna  
help me up?  
Yeah.  
[Grunting]  
Where do you think they think  
we're gonna put the TVs...  
if they weren't bolted  
to the furniture?  
- You got me.  
- Yeah.  
[Chuckling]  
You look great.  
Good. 'Cause I  
wanna win tonight.  
- I want the five thou.  
- Me too.  
- Ah, I don't think you're up to it.  
- What are you talkin' about?  
No, it would be funny,  
us not doing a duet.  
Pretty night tonight.  
I'm really sorry  
about what happened.  
He shouldn't have shot at us.  
That was stupid.  
Uh-huh. He made  
an error in judgment.  
Uh.  
[Chuckles]

So did you.

- [Sighs]

- Your wife seems like  
a very decent person.

Yeah.

She fooled me too.

Now, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, man.

Come on. Enough.

- I'm trying to keep you  
from throwing your life away.

- Why?

I'm through livin'  
in a middle-class prison.

You don't know anything  
about livin' in prison.

I'll... I'll... I'll be good.

I promise.

- [Sighs]

- Let's just go downstairs.

[Snickers]

I never met  
anybody like you.

[Hostess] All right, Omaha.

Are we having a good time?

- [Crowd] Yeah!

- Yeah?

Okay. Well, we found her this time,  
so let's try this again, okay?

Let's give a nice,  
warm round of applause...

to Miss Suzi Loomis.

Hey, hey-ey

Yeah, yea-ah

Sweet dreams

are made of this

Who am I to disagree

I travel the world

and the seven seas

Everybody's

lookin' for somethin'

Some of them

want to use you

Some of them want

to get used by you

Some of them  
want to abuse you  
Some of them  
want to be abused  
[Crowd Cheering]  
Sweet dreams  
are made of this  
Who am I to disagree  
I travel the world  
and the seven seas  
Everybody's  
lookin' for somethin'  
[Singers On CD]  
Sweet dreams are made of this  
Sweet dreams  
are made of this  
- Sweet dreams are  
- Sweet dreams  
[Loud Cheering, Whistling]  
Do you think  
I'm a good person?  
Yeah, I do.  
I wish I did.  
I wish a lot of things.  
Everybody does.  
What do you  
wish for?  
Um...  
All the things  
I never did...  
- When I had a chance to do 'em.  
- [Bell Dings]  
[Door Sliding Open]  
[Sighing]  
Uh, ladies and gentlemen,  
with your permission,  
I'd like to introduce  
my daughter, Liv.  
[Man]  
Yeah!  
Baby, let's cruise  
Away  
From here  
Don't be confused

The way  
Is clear  
And if you want it  
you got it forever  
This is not  
a one-night stand  
Baby  
- Yeah, so  
- So  
Let the music  
take your mind  
Just release  
and you will find  
You're gonna fly away  
Glad you're goin' my way  
I love it when  
we're cruisin' together  
- Have a seat.  
- Music is played for love  
- Cruisin'is made for love  
- You gonna be all right  
by yourself for a while?  
I love it when we're  
cruisin'together  
Cerveza, por favor.  
Cruise with me, baby  
Cruise  
Yeah  
Cruise  
- Oh, baby, let's cruise  
- Oh, baby, let's cruise  
[Liv]  
Let's float  
Let's glide  
Ooh-ooh, let's open up  
And go  
Inside  
And if you want it  
you got it forever  
I could just stay here  
beside you and love you, baby  
Let the music  
Take your mind  
Just release and



You will find  
You're gonna fly away  
Glad you're goin' my way  
I love it when  
we're cruisin' together  
Music is played for love  
Cruisin' is made for love  
- I love it when  
- I love it  
I love it I love it  
I love it  
[Cheering,  
Applause]  
Her name was Lola  
She was a showgirl  
With yellow feathers  
in her hair  
And her dress  
cut down to there  
She would merengue  
and do the cha-cha  
And while she tried to be a star  
Tony always tended bar  
Across the crowded floor  
They worked from 8 till 4  
They were young  
and they had each other  
- Who could ask for more  
- At the Copa  
At the Copa  
Copacabana  
The hottest spot  
north of Havana  
At the Copa  
Copacabana  
Music and dancing  
were always the fashion  
At the Copa  
Don't fall in love  
Copacabana  
Copacabana  
Copacabana  
[Cheering,  
Applause, Whistling]

All right, ladies and gentlemen.

It is sure gonna be tough  
to pick a winner tonight.

Okay, our next contestant,  
Mr. Reggie Kane.

[Applause]

What tune can I spin  
for you tonight, Mr. Kane?

I'm gonna make  
my own music tonight, ma'am.

This song is for  
a friend of mine.

He taught me  
to drive.

If I leave here tomorrow  
Would you still remember me

For I must be  
travelin' on now

'Cause there's too many places

I've got to see

For if I stay here

With you now

Things just couldn't be  
the same

'Cause I'm as free

As a bird now

And this bird

you cannot change

Oh-oh

And this bird

you cannot change

Lord knows

I can't change

Lord knows

[Laughing]

I can't change

[Audience Gasps, Screams]

[Todd]

No! Reggie! Reggie!

[Groaning]

[Panting]

And they say our society  
has lost its finesse.

[Laughing]

Oh, my God. Man...

Go home.

May I sit?

Be my guest.

Thought you  
might like something.

Brought you  
something else.

[Snickers]

I can't go back  
to who I was.

I'm different now.

I sing.

I'm sorry  
about your friend.

You must have really  
cared about him.

[Sighs]

I know I haven't  
said this in a long time,  
but I love you  
very much.

Oh, she may be weary  
And young girls  
they do get wearied  
Wearing that same old  
shaggy dress

But when she  
gets weary

Try a little tenderness

- Hey.

- Hi.

How ya doin'?

- I can't believe what happened  
last night.

- I know.

- Somebody said he was  
an escaped convict or something.

- Mornin'.

- All paid up.

- I just don't believe that.

He seemed so sweet,  
and he sang so beautifully.

Yeah. I never heard

" Free Bird" sung like that.

- Is that yours?

- Yeah.

- Nice paint job.

- Thanks.

- [Suzi] There you are.

- Hey, you all ready to go?

Let's get the show on the road.

California, here I come.

Hey, something wrong there,  
honey?

- No, I'm just sad.

- Yeah, I know.

Well, if it's of any interest, there's  
a \$2,000 purse in Sparks, Nevada.

Nevada? Nevada's

on the way to California.

Just a slight detour.

What do you say?

- How could I refuse?

- [Chuckling]

Listen, it was really great  
meetin' you guys.

Hey, would you like  
to share our cab?

Why not?

You know, I already know  
the answer to this, but I'm  
gonna ask the question anyway.

Fire away.

I have 800,000

frequent flier miles...

that I never

have been able to use.

You don't by any chance  
accept them for travel?

Of course we do.

Oh.

Well.

And they say that our society  
has lost its finesse.

Each day

through my window

I watch him

as he passes by  
And I say to myself  
I'm so lucky  
he's so fly  
To have a boy like him  
Is truly  
a dream come true  
Out of all  
the girlies in the world  
He belongs to you  
But it was just  
my imagination  
Runnin'away with me  
Tell you  
it was just my imagination  
Runnin'away with me  
Soon we'll be married  
And raise a family  
Oh, yeah  
Have a cozy little crib  
in the country  
With two children  
maybe three  
I tell you I  
Can visualize it all, baby  
Ooh  
It couldn't be a dream  
'Cause too real  
it all seems  
Oh-oh, oh, oh  
But it was just  
my imagination  
Ooh, once again, yeah  
- Runnin'away with me  
- Running away with me  
- Tell you it was just my imagination  
- Running away  
Runnin'away with me  
Me, yeah, yeah  
Hoo  
Every night  
on my knees I pray  
Dear Lord  
Hear my plea, yeah

Don't ever let another  
take his love from me  
Or I will surely die  
- Her love is  
- Heavenly  
When your arms enfold me  
I hear a tender rhapsody  
- But in reality  
- Ooh  
He doesn't even know me  
- Just my imagination  
- Ooh, he's so fly  
I look out my window  
- Runnin'away with me  
- It's runnin'away with me, baby  
[Music Changes]  
Oh, now you won't regret it  
No, no  
Young girls  
they don't forget it  
Love  
is their only happiness  
Yeah, yeah, yeah  
But it's all so easy  
All so easy  
All you got to do  
Is try a little tenderness  
Try a little tenderness  
Yeah  
Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah  
You got to squeeze her  
Don't tease her  
Never leave her  
You got to, got to, got to  
got to, got to, got to  
Try a little tenderness  
- Hey, hey  
- Hey, hey  
- Yeah, yeah, hey, hey  
- Yeah, yeah  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
You got to squeeze her  
Don't tease her  
Never leave her

[Scatting]

Try a little tenderness

Yeah

Yeah, yeah

Oh, don't lose her now

You got to squeeze her

Don't tease her

Never leave her

- You got to

- [Scatting]

Try a little tenderness

[Man Laughing,

Blows Raspberry]